

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04614 251042Z

43

ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 931

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4614

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF ASSEMBLY SPEAKER ON INTERNAL POLITICS

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SURHELLEN AND AMBASSADOR JUNE 24, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHUNG IL-KWON MENTIONED EFFORTS TO MODERATE ROKG ACTIONS AGAINST NCCC-K SECRETARY KIM KWAN-SOK AND CO-DEFENDANT REVEREND PARK, AND AGAINST KIM CHI-HA. CHUNG SAID THAT, FOLLOWING HIS RECENT VISIT TO US AND GERMANY, HE AHD RAISED BOTH CASES WITH PRESIDENT PARK. NVDUE THEIR IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THESE COUNTRIES.

2. WHILE CHUNG HAD URGED THAT CASES AGAINST KIM AND PARK BE DROPPED, HE NOW BELIEVES THAT COURT CASES WILL BE CONCLUDED BUT THAT KIM AND PARK MIGHT BE AMNESTIED UNDER GENERAL AUG 15 NATIONAL DAY AMNESTY OR LATER DURING CHRISTMAN. HE IS PRESSING FOR AN AMNESTY ON AUG 15. WITH RESPECT TO KIM CHI-HA CASE, CHUNG SAID THAT HE HAS RECEIVED FIRM COMMITMENT, CONFIRMED BY KCIA DIRECTOR, THAT KIM CHI-HA

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04614 251042Z

WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE SENTENCED TO DEATH BUT WILL

RECEIVE LENGTHY JAIL SENTENCE. CHUNG NEEDED NO PRODDING ON IMPORTANCE BOTH CASES WITH RESPECT TO PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION IN US.

3. ON MORE GENERAL PLANE, CHUNG MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR RESTIVENESS IN BUSINESS AND BUREAUCRATIC CIRCLES WITH VARIOUS MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO HIGHLIGHT "THREAT". CHUNG SAID THAT IMPORTANT KOREAN BUSINESS INTERESTS ARE NOT ONLY CONSIDERING HEDGING ON INVESTMENTS DUE FEAR OF HOSTILITIES BUT ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY ANTICORRUPTION AND OTHER MEASURES LIMITING THEIR FREEDOM OF ACTION. IN ADDITION HE FOUND DURING VISIT TO HIS LOCAL CONSTITUENCY, RESTIVENESS ABOUT CONSTANT INSPECTION VISITS BY VARIOUS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS BROAD SUPPORT ROKG EFFORTS TO INCREASE PREPAREDNESS AGAINST POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. HE THOUGHT MOST KOREANS, INCLUDING OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, ARE REPAED TO VOLUNTARILY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT COMPULSORY MEASURES NOW BEING ENFORCED.

4. WHILE CHUNG WAS CRITICAL OF RECENT ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY PRESIDENT PARK, HE DELIBERATELY ASCRIBED RESPONSIBILITY TO FAILURE OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORS TO GIVE HIM HONEST ASSESSMENTS OF INTERNAL SITUATION. CHUNG DATES PARK'S ISOLATION FROM CONFLICTING VIEWS TO AUG 15 ASSASSINATION OF HIS WIFE. ON THE OTHER HAND, CHUNG DOES NOT EXPECT, THAT DESPITE UNHAPPINESS IN VARIOUS CIRCLES, THERE WILL BE ANY SIGNIFICANT RESISTANCE TO PARK'S POLICIES. IN FACT, HE HAS SOME OPTIMISM THAT PARK WILL EASE OFF, AS INDICATED BY EXPECTATIONS ON HANDLING OF KIM/PARK AND KIM CHI-HA CASES.
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